

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and rejected claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,792,113 to Ansell et al. ("*Ansell*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,726,100 to Lauper et al. ("*Lauper*").

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 2, 4, 5-13, 15, and 17-23. Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-23 are pending and under current examination.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the claims lack support in the specification (Office Action p. 3). Claim 10 recites "a content usage control apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the change limitation means charges fees for changing the maximum number of times user identification information can be replaced." As discussed on pp. 7-8 of the Amendment filed June 8, 2007, page 34 of the specification supports claims 10 and 21.

In response, the Examiner states, "[t]he cited disclosure only supports a service needs payment, the registration is allowed to be changed, not is allowed to be changed with charge" (Office Action at p. 3). The Examiner's position is unclear. Applicant believes the Examiner may be asserting that the disclosure should be read as supporting payments for rewriting registration information, rather than payments for

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

rewriting the maximum number of times registration information can be rewritten. If so, the Examiner is incorrect. Page 34 of Applicant's specification states:

The limitation imposed on registration is allowed to be changed.
For example, as a service which needs payment, the maximum number of times registration information may be allowed to be rewritten is changed from 5 to 10.

Thus, the "service" is changing the maximum number of rewrites from 5 to 10. This service may "need[] payment." Therefore, claim 10 is fully supported. Claim 21 recites similar subject matter to claim 10 and is also fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite a statutory computer-readable medium in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion at p. 4 of the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent claim 1, for example, recites a content usage control apparatus, comprising, among other things, a "registration means for registering the first user identification information, and for replacing the first user identification information with a second user identification information to register a second user requesting use of the content." The cited references fail to teach or suggest at least the claimed "replacing the first user identification with a second user identification information."

Ansell discloses using keys to access content, and the keys can be converted from a “machine-bound state to [a] user-bound state” (*Ansell*, abstract). *Ansell* also discloses re-issuing machine bound keys, and limiting the number of times the machine-bound keys can be re-issued (*Ansell*, col. 17, lines 27-58). However, *Ansell*'s keys cannot correspond to the claimed first user identification information, as *Ansell* does not disclose replacing a first key with a second key. Moreover, even assuming converting a key from a machine-bound state to a user-bound state could correspond to the claimed “replacing,” *Ansell* only discloses converting from a machine-bound state to a user-bound state, not converting from a user-bound state for a first user to a user-bound state for a second user. Therefore, *Ansell* fails to teach or suggest the claimed “registration means for registering the first user identification information, and for replacing the first user identification information with a second user identification information to register a second user requesting use of the content,” as recited by independent claim 1.

Lauper fails to cure the deficiencies of *Ansell*. *Lauper* discloses a method for updating time-limited parameters in a chip-card, such as lists of blocked user chip-cards (*Lauper*, abstract). *Lauper*'s does not disclose that the lists include user identifications, however. Rather, *Lauper*'s lists include identifications of the chip-cards themselves (*Lauper*, col. 4, lines 29-31). Moreover, even assuming the lists included user identifications, *Lauper* does not disclose replacing a first user identification in the list with a second user identification. *Lauper*, therefore, does not teach or suggest the claimed “registration means for registering the first user identification information, and for replacing the first user identification information with a second user identification

information to register a second user requesting use of the content,” as recited by independent claim 1.

Claim 1 also recites a “limitation modifying means for modifying the limitation on replacing user identification information.” The cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed limitation modifying means.

As discussed, *Ansell* discloses limiting the number of times the machine-bound keys can be re-issued (*Ansell*, col. 17, lines 27-58). However, *Ansell* does not disclose modifying the number of times the machine-bound keys can be replaced. Therefore, *Ansell* fails to teach or suggest the claimed “limitation modifying means for modifying the limitation on replacing user identification information,” as recited by independent claim 1.

Lauper fails to cure the deficiencies of *Ansell*. As discussed, *Lauper* discloses updating lists of blocked user chip-cards (*Lauper*, abstract), but does not disclose replacing entries in the lists. Moreover, *Lauper* does not disclose replacing user identification information, or limiting the replacement of user identification information. Therefore, *Lauper* fails to teach or suggest the claimed “limitation modifying means for modifying the limitation on replacing user identification information,” as recited by independent claim 1.

Although of different scope, independent claims 12 and 23 distinguish over *Ansell* and *Lauper* for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 6-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 13-15 and 17-22 depend from claim 12. As already discussed, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed limitation modifying means.

Because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim element recited by claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-23, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to these claims. Applicant therefore requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The dependent claims recite additional features not taught by the cited references. For example, claim 6 recites “[a] content usage control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the limitation is a maximum number of times user identification information can be replaced.” As discussed, *Ansell* discloses limiting the number of times the machine-bound keys can be re-issued (*Ansell*, col. 17, lines 27-58). However, as discussed, *Ansell*’s machine-bound keys are not “user identification information.” Moreover, *Ansell* does not disclose “replacing” the user-bound keys, merely reissuing them. Therefore, *Ansell* does not teach or suggest the claimed “wherein the limitation is a maximum number of times user identification information can be replaced,” as recited by dependent claim 6. *Lauper* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Ansell*.

Claim 7 recites “a content usage control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the limitation is a predetermined amount of time that must expire between replacing identification information.” As discussed, *Lauper* discloses a method for updating time-limited parameters in a chip-card, such as lists of blocked user chip-cards (*Lauper*, abstract). The Examiner relies upon *Lauper* as allegedly disclosing this subject matter of claim 7 (Office Action at pp. 6-7). However, the cited portions of *Lauper* do not disclose any predetermined amount of time that must expire between replacing identification information. Instead, the Examiner appears simply to be relying on *Lauper*’s disclosure that parameters such as the lists of blocked chip cards are

"time-limited." However, *Lauper* does not disclose that the term "time-limited" means that a predetermined amount of time must expire between replacing the parameter. Instead, *Lauper* merely discloses that the time-limited parameters are "not durable and not linked to a specific transaction, and that occasionally have to be updated" (*Lauper*, col. 2, lines 3-5). Therefore, *Lauper* does not teach or suggest the claimed "predetermined amount of time that must expire between replacing identification information," as recited by dependent claim 7. *Ansell* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Lauper*.

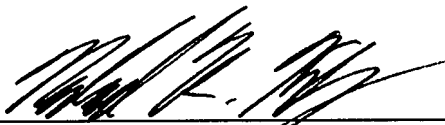
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections. Pending claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-23 are in condition for allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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